

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020969
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 A-01 PRS-01
CCO-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE
APPROVED BY S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE
-----300651Z 114905 /10 S
O 300627Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 020969

TOVIP 32 - DELIVER TO VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY AT PLANESIDE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJECT: 1/28 HALLORAN ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES

REF: WOLF-OTTO TELCON, 1/29/77

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN JANUARY 29 NEW YORK TIMES.
OPERATIONS CENTER WILL SCREEN EARLY EDITIONS OF SUNDAY
PAPERS AND SEND ASAP ANY FURTHER HALLORAN ARTICLES ON
SAME SUBJECT.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS. QTE

AN INVITATION TO MONDALE FOR VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA REPORTED-
LY TURNED DOWN.

BY RICHARD HALLORAN/SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, JAN. 28 - THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS
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TURNED DOWN A REQUEST FROM THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT THAT
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE VISIT SEOUL DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR
ABROAD, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES.

THE KOREAN EMBASSY HERE PUT THE REQUEST TO THE VICE PRES-
IDENT'S OFFICE BEFORE MR. MONDALE LEFT, THE SOURCES SAID,

SUGGESTING THAT PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE WOULD FEEL SLIGHTED IF THE VICE PRESIDENT WENT TO ASIA WITHOUT STOPPING IN KOREA.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN "INCONSISTENT" WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S VIEW ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR HIM TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO KOREA AT THIS TIME IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT PARK'S SUPPRESSION OF THOSE RIGHTS.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SUGGESTED INDIRECTLY THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION DID NOT WANT TO GIVE THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT THE IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT PARK WAS FAVORED OVER OTHER SMALL NATIONS THAT ARE AMERICAN ALLIES.

MOREOVER, THEY INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POLITICALLY WISE FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO SHOW SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO THE KOREANS NOW, GIVEN THE RECENT ALLEGATIONS OF QUESTIONABLE KOREAN LOBBYING AND ALLEGED BRIBERY OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN.

THE VICE PRESIDENT IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TOKYO, A TWO-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SEOUL, ON SUNDAY ON THE LAST STOP OF HIS JOURNEY TO WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN.

THE SOURCES INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT PARK'S GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN A REAFFIRMATION OF THE UNITED STATES SECURITY COMMITMENT TO SOUTH KOREA. MORE IMMEDIATE, THE KOREANS WERE SAID TO HAVE WANTED A MONDALE VISIT
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TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THE KOREAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES CAUSED BY DISCLOSURES OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS OF QUESTIONABLE LOBBYING IN WASHINGTON.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO REPORTED TO WANT A FIRST-HAND INDICATION OF HOW INSISTENT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO BE ON HAVING PRESIDENT PARK RESTORE HUMAN RIGHTS THAT HE HAS SUPPRESSED IN KOREA. THE KOREANS WERE ALSO SAID TO BE ANXIOUS TO KNOW HOW DETERMINED PRESIDENT CARTER IS TO WITHDRAW AMERICAN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA. THERE ARE ABOUT 40,000 REMAINING THERE.

BUT THE ADMINISTRATION, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS, THE KOREANS THAT THE PURPOSE OF MR. MONDALE'S TRIP WAS TO MEET THE LEADERS OF MAJOR ALLIES PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. END QTE. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Message ID: 856347d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3567509
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1/28 HALLORAN ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, KS, (MONDALE, WALTER)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/856347d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009